

Local Drought Impact Group Leadership & Workgroup Meeting
Pinal County
11/16/06

Susan Craig, ADWR Statewide Drought Program
Evelyn Erlandsen, ADWR Statewide Drought Program
Rick Gibson, UA Cooperative Extension
Randy Edmond, ADWR – Pinal Active Management Area
Bill Garfield, AZ Water
Arnie Schlittenhart, Eloy NRCD
Doug Olsen, City of Eloy
Bill Collings, PCGWAA
Glinda Weddle, CAIDD
Steve Chasse, Abbott Laboratories
Art Carlton, Pinal Co. OEM,
Wayne J. Costa, Town of Florence
Denise Shultz, National Park Service
Bruce Hallin, SRP
Douglas Mason, SCIDD
Robin Bain, Global Water
Kendra Tso, Ak-Chin Indian Community
Rebecca M. de la Torre, USDA-NRCS

General Session

The November meeting of the Pinal County Local Drought Impact Group (LDIG) Leadership and Workgroup meeting was held on November 16, 2006 in room M101 at Central Arizona College. After introductions, and an announcement of refreshment availability courtesy of Robin Bain from Global Water, Susan Craig refreshed the group's memory on the objectives and desired outcomes of the LDIG process. Following Susan's presentation, the three workgroups and the steering committee met. Notes from their meetings are included below. .

The next full LDIG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 11 from 8:30 am to 11:30 am. An agenda for that meeting will be forwarded as it is confirmed. It was suggested that the agenda be centered around developing an understanding of Southwestern drought development and management.

Suggested Agenda Items:

- Weather stations & locations
- Water Resource Training: Pinal County water sources, hydrology, watershed information, etc.
- Climate & weather update
- SNOTEL (SNOWpack TELelemetry) sites
- Cochise County workgroup leads: to share development of the group, developing objectives, and update on progress
- Pinal County Public Information Officer: Invite Joe Pyritz to provide the Pinal County LDIG with an update on the Interagency Drought Communication Plan Group and to discuss opportunities for future local drought education and outreach
- Pinal County Workgroups: discuss draft objectives and needs

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.

Steering Committee Meeting

Steering Committee Members Present -

Art Carlton, Pinal County Emergency Management

Bill Garfield, AZ Water

Bruce Hallin, SRP

Doug Mason, SCIDD

Additional Participants -

Susan Craig, ADWR Statewide Drought Program

Randy Edmond, ADWR Pinal AMA

1. Steering committee chair and co-chair selected

Chair - Bill Garfield

Co-chair - Doug Mason

2. Steering committee will meet as needed (currently, there is no work that needs to be accomplished by the Steering Committee)

Several Steering Committee members are participating in the workgroups

3. Next steering committee meeting - Dec. 14 at 9 a.m.

Planning group will join steering committee

Discuss plans for the January 11th LDIG meeting

4. Recommendations for workgroups

- meet once per month on the second Thurs. of each month

- all workgroup meetings will be held on the same day at consecutive times
(alternating times each month)

- participants may be involved with all workgroups if desired

- meetings held at the ADWR Pinal AMA office

- teleconference available for meetings

- workgroup leads send reports to steering committee after each workgroup meeting
(a summary of accomplishments and action items)

Mitigation and Response Workgroup

Attendees:

Glinda Weddle, Central Arizona Irrigation and Drainage District, lead
Bill Collings, Pinal County Water Augmentation Authority
Robin Bain, Global Water
Kendra Tso, Ak-Chin Indian Community
Steve Chasse, Abbott Laboratories
Doug Mason, San Carlos Irrigation and Drainage District

This workgroup discussed their various backgrounds and areas of knowledge in an effort to establish a beginning working relationship.

The group acknowledged its purpose to develop mitigation measures and response measures. Some mitigation measures discussed were use of reclaimed water and stressing early conservation techniques is key. It was noted that there is a need for an assessment of what is actually happening in Pinal County right now. What is the water budget (inflow-outflow, hydrology)? What is the availability of wet water versus paper water (in other words, what shortfall or excess exists and is predicted in future years?). The group would like a map that reflects the various irrigation district boundaries, cities and towns, as well as other water providers, coupled with watershed and hydrologic information this would assist in deciding whether Pinal County should be taken as a whole or possibly in sectors when recommending mitigation and response measures.

A Drought Impact Decision Matrix will be prepared and distributed to the members of the workgroup to solicit input. Responses will be assimilated and then shared with the group. Drought website resources will be distributed to the group as well.

The workgroup understands its requirement of preparing a document that is a "Mitigation and Response Plan for Pinal County" (Mitigation Plan) and is working towards that goal. A schedule for developing the Mitigation Plan will be developed by the end of January after the Committee has had the benefit of additional information and education at the Local Drought Impact Group meeting scheduled for the middle of January 2007.

Education & Outreach Workgroup

A) What do you see the purpose of the Work Group?

1. Provide leadership and support in the education and information facet of the Pinal County LDIG effort to address drought-related issues, needs and opportunities.

B) Articulate goals for 2007

1. Overarching 2007 Goal ~
Identify existing water/drought-related programs and services and the existing delivering systems.

2. Audience Specific 2007 Goals ~ (These goals will be the foundation for the Pinal County 2008 Town Hall Meeting planning effort)

Public/Communities (i.e. visitors or newcomers): Increase public awareness on these issues: where does water come from; how much water do we have; do we have enough water for all the new development and golf courses; what kind of water plan is in place; debunk the myths.

Businesses (i.e. hotels or restaurants): Increase water conservation practices in daily activities (i.e. Rinse Smart program or less laundry service etc.)

Rural Water Systems: Provide the appropriate venue (i.e. forum or workshop) to address the need to have water plans in place and what available tools (i.e. sample plans or one-on-one technical assistance) exist to assist them.

Farmers/Ranchers (land users): Increase water conservation and publicly promote those savings to the public.

Elected Officials (County/State/Federal): Provide recommendations on how to improve water conservation and proactively respond to drought conditions.

C) Determine and list deliverables for 2007

The work group would like to interact with the Mitigation and Monitoring work groups along with the Steering Committee to develop the list. An overall thought is to develop a timeline for 2007 which would be tied into existing themed months or days (i.e. January: Arbor Day (Jan. 16); March: Gardening, Nature and Ecology Books Month; April: Earth Day (Apr. 22); etc.). An array of tools or activities (i.e. series of news articles, workshops, etc) would be planned for the appropriate month or day.

D) What training do you need to achieve these goals?

Getting a technically-sound baseline of water/drought-related information is essential for all the members of the Pinal County LDIG. This is the foremost training need at this time.

E) Agenda Items for January Full Meeting

Identifying the appropriate presenters and speakers to provide the “technically-sound baseline of the water/drought-related information on BOTH State AND Pinal County and invite them to the meeting.

F) Future Work Group Meeting Dates and Times

TBD at the January Full Meeting

G) Other Items

1. Need to populate the Education & Outreach Work Group. Currently seeking individuals with experience or interest in education and information or individuals from one of the specific audiences listed above.
2. Need to identify the 2008 Pinal County Town Hall Meeting for Drought (Supervisor David Snider will be key in making this designation happen).
3. Follow-up on the interest in BOR water conservation funding opportunity with the Mitigation and Monitoring work group chairs; Susan Craig; Rick Gibson; and Doug Olson.
4. January Full Meeting to be held at Central Arizona College on 1/11

Monitoring Workgroup

The discussion of the monitoring workgroup centered around the need for good weather information. Various sources of weather data were discussed and the group felt that there needed to be further exploration of any additional sources.

The workgroup also was interested in finding out what data other groups in other counties were accumulating, or planning to accumulate, as part of their LDIG activities